

Remarks

In view of the above amendments and the following remarks, reconsideration of the rejections and further examination are requested.

Initially, it is noted that claims 1-8 and 10-12 have been allowed. The Applicants would like to thank the Examiner for this indication of allowable subject matter.

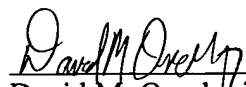
Claims 15 and 22 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Claims 14-17, 19, 20 and 22-24 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Yamagata (US 5,951,833). Claims 14-17 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Kinoshita (US 5,534,073). Claims 18-24 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Kinoshita and Lamb (US 5,025,280).

In order to expedite prosecution of the application, claims 14-24 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer to the subject matter contained therein. As a result, allowed claims 1-8 and 10-12 are the only claims pending.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is submitted that the present application is now in condition for allowance. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that there are issues remaining which must be resolved before allowance of the application.

Respectfully submitted,

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